

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) A fuel feed pump for internal combustion engines having a fuel flow-rate regulating valve on an inlet side,

wherein the fuel flow-rate regulating valve comprises

a housing having a fuel inlet port and a fuel outlet port,

a valve mechanism equipped in the housing for controlling a flow rate of fuel from the fuel inlet port to the fuel outlet port, and

a regulating mechanism for regulating a backpressure to regulate a position of a valve element of the valve mechanism in response to a system pressure.

2. (Original) A fuel feed pump as claimed in claim 1, wherein the valve element is a needle valve.

3. (Original) A fuel feed pump as claimed in claim 2, wherein the valve mechanism includes a chamber that operably accommodates the valve element and an opening provided in the chamber that communicates with the fuel inlet port, in which the valve element controls the fuel flow rate by controlling the flow rate of fuel in the opening.

4. (Original) A fuel feed pump as claimed in claim 2, wherein the valve mechanism includes a chamber that operably accommodates the valve element and an opening provided in the chamber that communicates with the fuel inlet port, in which a valve seat formed on an edge portion of the opening and the valve element cooperate to control the flow rate of the fuel in the opening.

5. (Currently Amended) A fuel feed pump as claimed in claim 1, ~~2, 3 or 4~~, wherein the backpressure regulating means includes means that resiliently urges the valve element in a valve-open direction, and a discharged fuel acts on the valve element to restrain the valve element in the valve-open direction.